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BENEVOLA EVANGELICAL
UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

BENEVOLA, MARYLAND



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J. H. Krawiec
Anniversary Celebration

SEPTEMBER 12-19, 1948

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
DEDICATION OF THE PRESENT CHURCH EDIFICE
SEPTEMBER 15, 1918

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
DEDICATION OF THE SECOND CHURCH EDIFICE
1888

NINTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
ERECTION OF THE FIRST CHURCH
1858

CURVIN L. THOMPSON, MINISTER
BOONSBORO, MARYLAND



HISTORICAL SKETCH OF BENEVOLA EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

The year of 1820 was the beginning of a period of marked religious activity in Washington County, Maryland. Quite a number of denominations erected churches about that time. Religious meetings were held in school houses and private houses, while camp-meetings were common. Much of this renewed religious interest was certainly due to the earlier labors of Otterbien, Boehm, Geeting, Newcomer and others.

In this community, however, Mount Zion, or better known as Fahrney's Church, is the oldest. It was built by the Mennonites in 1763, but many years later it became a union church, and was used to some extent by the United Brethren.

The church at Benevola properly begins in the year 1848. In this year a class of the United Brethren was formed at Fahrney's Church by the Rev. John W. Fulkerson, and later this class was reorganized by Rev. J. Markwood, Presiding Elder. Rev. William R. Coursey was the preacher in charge and Rev. J. Perry the associate. The old class book contains sixty-six names, among these were those of Joshua Harp, class leader, and Emanuel Bowman, steward. It is said that a great camp-meeting held somewhere near Greenbrier aided in the formation of this class.

In January, 1853, a new class was formed at Harmony Hill school house. It appears to the writer that the class at Fahrney's Church was broken up at about that time, and that the members living in the vicinity of Benevola formed a new class, which held services in the school house. Here Rev. H. B. Winton was the preacher in charge. Joshua Harp and Daniel Mowery were class leaders, and Joseph Fasnacht was steward. The membership consisted of some twenty persons, among them already mentioned we may also mention Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Bowman, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Perry, Mrs. Joshua Toms, Mr. John Murray and Mr. Slahardy.

Some time after the organization of the class at Harmony Hill, a great revival, conducted by Rev. William Coursey, resulted in many accessions to

the church. This increased membership with its promising outlook necessitated a more suitable meeting place. Building proceedings were started in the early part of the year 1858. According to the laws of Maryland, five trustees were elected, namely, Joshua Harp, Jonathan Perry, Joseph Fasnacht, Emanuel Bowman and John Murray. On the 21st of July, 1858, these trustees signed the articles of incorporation, which act legally authorized them to build the Benevola Chapel of the United Brethren in Christ.

Little can be said about the building of the church in 1858. Apparently all the old building records have been lost. Without doubt much of the hauling and labor was donated by members and interested residents of the community. The building was done under the immediate supervision of the trustees. The land, including the graveyard, was sold to the trustees by D. H. Newcomer for the sum of fifty dollars. The church was dedicated by Bishop J. J. Glossbrenner, a great leader in the United Brethren Church at that time. Rev. I. K. Statton was the minister.

It is unfortunate that these pages cannot be illustrated from a photograph of the first church at Benevola. However, from old residents we may learn something of its appearance. It was a modest brick structure without a tower or bell, fronted toward the east, and had two front doors, each opening into an aisle which led to the pulpit, situated at the west end. A long porch, with two or three steps leading to the ground, extended across the front. There were six large windows, similar to those in the second church. The interior furnishings were simple. There was a basement room which opened into the lower ground on the north side of the structure. This room was used for Sunday School, Bible classes and singing schools. This church stood until 1886, by which time its walls were so badly cracked that it had to be torn down.

This sketch would be incomplete without mentioning the singing schools which were held in the basement of the church, and which for a number of years were a center of interest in the community. At that time organs or other musical instruments were scarcely used in churches, because many persons were opposed to their use and also because they were expensive, besides few musical instruments were found in homes. For these reasons people naturally turned to their voices for their musical diversions. At about this time a great interest in part singing arose, consequently weekly singing school became popular. These schools, which were often held in connection with Bible classes, stimulated the interest in church music. About the year 1868 Daniel F. Stouffer, who later became an elder in the Baptist Brethren Church, conducted a large singing class at Benevola.

During the period from 1858 to 1886 religious services were regularly held at Benevola Chapel, an appointment on the Boonsboro circuit. Revival meetings, locally called "big meetings," were yearly occurrences. It is said that these meetings always attracted large crowds. During this period Mrs. Christian Hoover moved her membership to Benevola. Her home is well noted for its hospitality to ministers.

The first Benevola Chapel stood twenty-eight years. In 1886, during the ministry of Rev. C. M. Hott, a second church was built just a little to the west of the old location. Rev. A. M. Evers was the presiding elder. We find in the conference minutes of 1887 that a "new church was erected at Benevola at a cost of \$1,300," a small sum indeed. The writer thinks this must have been the actual money expended, while the greater portion of the labor, hauling and old bricks that were used were not taken into account. Like the first church, it was not built by contract; the trustees attended to all the details. This church was dedicated in the late autumn of 1886 by Rev. A. M. Evers.

At this time or perhaps a little later an organ was secured for the church. This move was a radical step and received considerable opposition, as many conscientious members believed that an organ was entirely unsuitable in the worship of God.

In June, 1902, during the ministry of Rev. C. W. Fisher, a severe thunder storm did considerable damage to the church. The western gable was blown in. The falling debris and rain ruined the furniture, organ and a number of pews. The interior was refinished, new furniture, new carpet and a new reed organ were purchased. About \$500 was expended in this improvement. This dedication service, the third, was conducted by Rev. W. H. Washinger.

In May, 1908, during the ministry of Rev. J. A. Shettel, a series of services were held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the building of the first church at Benevola. This celebration was a telling success and was very largely attended. A number of former ministers, M. L. Maysilles, J. W. Grimm, J. W. Kiracofe and J. E. B. Rice were present and took part in the services.

The year 1918 marks the close of sixty years of church history at Benevola. The pioneers of the membership have finished their labors. The last of them, Rev. Joshua Harp, who served as trustee for forty-seven years, died in 1905. Dr. A. G. Lovell, a treasurer of the Board of Trustees, class leader and Sunday school superintendent, rendered a faithful service since his coming to the congregation in the eighties. In September, 1917, the second church, badly in need of repairs, was torn down to make way for a more modern structure. The cornerstone for the new church was laid September 16, 1917. The year following preaching services and Sunday school went on without interruption in the school house, formerly Harmony Hill, the original home of the first United Brethren class in the community. From a membership of a score or more in the late fifties, the church has steadily grown until 1918 the membership is 140. "Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth."

H. G. H.

Much credit is due the late Reverend C. M. Sparrow, who came to the Circuit in 1916 and continued his ministry until 1923, for his inspiration and leadership in the completion of the present church structure.

The dedication of the present church was held on Sunday, September 15th, 1918, with special services in the morning, afternoon and evening. The late Dr. C. I. B. Brane, who was at that time associate editor of the Religious Telescope of Dayton, Ohio, preached at the morning service. The late Dr. A. B. Statton, who was then the conference superintendent, conducted the preaching service in the evening, at which time Dr. Brane conducted the dedicatory rites.

Appropriate religious services were conducted throughout the week. Dr. L. Walter Lutz, Hon. Wm. N. McFall, Rev. Samuel G. Zeigler and Rev. J. W. Grim were the respective speakers.

The new church building was originally heated by means of hot air furnaces, and light was furnished by a Delco system.

Since then a modern oil burning system has been supplied; other physical improvements have been made, as well as connecting with a commercial electric power system.

An Orgatron more recently was installed as a gift from the late J. Alvey Long and his wife, Lana C. Long, as a memorial to Mrs. Long's mother, Mrs. Laura C. Chaney, who was a consistent and loyal member of the church nearly all of her lifetime.

The Rev. Roy R. Zeigler succeeded Rev. C. M. Sparrow in the pastorate, serving from 1923 to 1926; the Rev. Wm. C. Wachter was assigned to the charge and served from 1927 to 1930, both of whom served faithfully and well.

In 1930 the Rev. Frank L. Stine became pastor and continued for 17 years until his retirement in 1947. Mr. Stine had the distinction of serving the longest pastorate of any who preceded him. His influence for good in the community in which he lived is well known.

The congregation has enjoyed a normal growth in membership throughout the years and now numbers 197.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1948

Bible School 9:45

Worship 11:00

Rev. S. Edwin Rupp, D.D., Guest Speaker
Cleveland, Ohio

Luncheon Noon

Organ Recital 2:30

Mrs. Richard R. Rebok, Organist

Youth's Choir 7:30

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1948

Sermon 7:45

Rev. Frank L. Stine, Guest Speaker

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1948

Sermon 7:45

Rev. W. C. Wachter, Guest Speaker
Baltimore, Maryland

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1948

Sermon 7:45

Rev. R. R. Zeigler, Guest Speaker
Boiling Springs, Penna.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1948

Bible School 9:45

Worship 11:00

Rev. F. Berry Plummer, D.D., Guest Speaker
Hagerstown, Maryland

ROSTER OF MEMBERSHIP

Evelyn B. Altemeier
McClelland Altemeier
Betty Lorraine Baker
Daniel Cornelius Baker
Emma Rebecca Baker
Ernest Baker
Ethel G. Reeder Baker
Gail Eugene Baker
Geraldine R. Bond Baker
Grace L. Baker
Harold Lee Baker
Harry D. Baker
Helen Jane Keadle Baker
Isabel Jane Baker
John Herman Baker
Lauretta Jane Baker
Leonard P. Baker
Luther R. Baker
Marie M. Baker
Mary Elizabeth Baker
Mary M. Baker
Nancy Lee Baker
Olive Jane Baker
Otho Veniah Baker
Ralph Hubert Baker
Raymond C. Baker
Mrs. Raymond Baker
Ruth V. Baker
Thurman Baker
Wilbur W. Baker
Mrs. Wilbur Baker
Willis Charles Baker
Charles Clayton Barnes
Charles Edwin Barnes
Irene May Barnes
Margaret Marie Barnes
Harold E. Blickenstaff
Thomas N. Blickenstaff
Mrs. Thomas N. Blickenstaff
Jack L. Bond
Mrs. Ruby Bond
Roy M. Bond
Catherine South Bowen
Albert L. Bowers
Jean Virginia Bowers
Lana Catherine Bowers
LeRoy Bowers
Nellie Shank Bowers
Robert L. Bowers
Virginia S. Bowers
Clemmie R. Brining
M. Millicent Butts
M. Fay Buzzard
Daniel Chrissinger
Frances Baker Coulter
William A. E. Cunningham
Floyd Davis

Lillie Davis
Anna Hoile DeHaven
Thelma Dinkle
Robert Domer
Earl Doub
Alvey Dubel
Charles Dubel
Lewis T. Dubel
Maude Dubel
Mrs. Dona Dusing
Julia E. Dusing
Milo Dusing
Mary K. Fisher
Margaret Fisher
Vada R. Flook
Katharine Shifler Ford
Clarence W. Foltz
Hazel Stouffer Foltz
Clarence Forsyth
James Stewart Frey
Sarah L. Baker Fry
Elsie Morrison Gaver
Ruth Byrum Gilbert
Elizabeth Gloss
R. Elizabeth Gouker
Louise V. Minnich Green
Helen M. Griffith
Alvin LeRoy Gross
Blanch Gross
Harry E. Gross
Hazel Gross
Melvin Gross
Dolores Elaine Blickenstaff Haller
Naomi W. Harbaugh
Mrs. Agnes K. Harp
Fayette R. Harp
Page A. Harp
Wilbur P. Harp
LeRoy Eugene Harshman, Jr.
Eileen Hauver
L. H. Hines
Mrs. L. H. Hines
Loretta Hines
Mary Martz Hudson
Anna Huffer
Charlotte R. Huffer Krepp
Elmer C. Huffer
Harlan C. Huffer
Vernie S. Huffer
Annie S. Huntzberry
Catharine Martz Jones
Mrs. Addie Keadle
C. Ned Keadle
Dr. Robert C. Keadle
Cora W. Kershner
Irene Kesselring
Virgie C. Kidwell

ROSTER OF MEMBERSHIP

C. Edwin Kline
Herbert A. Kline
Julia C. Kline
Stanley P. F. Kline
Mildred Kidwell Koontz
Lena E. Lamar
John A. Long, Jr.
Lana J. Long
Evelyn Hines Lowman
Edwin D. Martz
Harvey K. Martz
Miss Flora Miller
Martin Miller
Reginald Miller
Weaver Moser
Fred Newcomer
Harry Newcomer
Kathleen Smith Newcomer
Mabel C. Newcomer
Richard Newcomer
Margaret Bailey Nutter
John Palmer
Maggie Palmer
Alice Reeder
Elflette E. Shifler Reeder
H. Roland Reeder
Isabel Martz Reeder
Phyllis Irene Richard
Charlotte V. Ridenour
Douglas Ridenour
Mary Keadle Roberts
Elizabeth Bowers Royston
Pearl Iva Sharer
Ada L. Shiffer
Andrew Stephens
Atlee L. Shifler
Beulah V. Shifler
Charles William Shifler
Ellen Shifler
James E. Shifler
Leah Kathleen Shifler

Mildred Shifler
Peggy Lee Butts Shifler
Ralph Elwood Shifler
Ralph Otho James Shifler
Reginald R. Shifler
Seibert C. Shifler
Mr. Shirley Shifler
Vera Elizabeth Shifler
W. Merle Shifler
Woodrow M. Shifler
Mary K. Showe
Margaret L. Sinnisen
Nora Sinnisen
Roger Sinnisen
Elizabeth S. Socks
William G. Socks
Benjamin South
R. Eugene South
Susie Stevens
Frank L. Stine
G. Hubert Stine
J. William Stine
Sadie S. Stine
Ruth A. Stockslager
Jane R. Dubel Stouffer
Reno V. Stouffer
Vernon Stouffer
Agnes Taylor Suman
Carl V. Taylor
Elsie B. Thomas
Milton V. Thomas
Robert C. Thomas
Harry LeRoy Toms, Jr.
William V. Weller
Alice Winders
Elsie Martz Winders
Emma Winders
E. May Winders
Mary E. Winders
Mary Weaver
Blanch Wyand

IN MEMORIAM

(Those Who Died Since 1918)

Charles Baker	Lavina Doub	Anna E. Lovell
Drusiea Baker	L. Gertrude Dubel	Dr. A. G. Lovell
Hubert N. Baker	Viola E. Dubel	Susan M. Lovell
Mellie Blickenstaff	Jennie Fahrney	Mrs. H. K. Martz
Elkana S. Blickenstaff	Manzella Gantz	Louisa J. Newcomer
Snavely Blickenstaff	Florence Lynch Green	Hubert Reeder
Clara E. Bowman	George E. Gross	Lemuel V. Toms
Mahlon Bowman	Sarah Gross	Susan O. Thomas
Otho A. Bovey	Julia A. Harp	Mary V. Thomas
Cora A. Bovey	L. Arbelin Harp	William L. Shifler
Susan H. Bowers	Roscoe Harshman	Emma Sinnisen
Laura C. Chaney	F. H. Hoffmaster	Naomi South
Hazel Collis	George H. Huffer	Bessie M. Stine
Clara E. M. Crider	Mrs. George H. Huffer	Eliza Stine
Gertrude Cunningham	Charles S. Keller	Sarah J. Stouffer
Winton A. Doub	Missouri Keller	Mary L. Weaver
W. Scott Doub	Edna Koontz	Fanny Wyand
Virgie Doub	Herbert E. Lovell	

MINISTERS WHO SERVED FROM 1858 TO THE PRESENT

L. W. Matthews	C. H. Crowell
I. Baltzell	C. W. Stinspring
I. K. Statton	G. J. Roudabush
J. Delphy	E. J. Reese
W. R. Corsey	W. L. Martin
T. Bushong	J. E. B. Rice
G. W. Statton	D. Barshinger
J. D. Freed	C. K. Westfall
A. M. Evers	C. W. Fisher
J. H. Hott	A. N. Horn
C. T. Stearn	J. W. Grimm
W. O. Grimm	J. A. Shettle
G. H. Snapp	J. W. Houseman
J. W. Hott	S. R. Ludwig
J. W. Kiracofe	E. J. Renshaw
H. A. Bovey	C. M. Sparrow (1916-1923)
J. Ruebush	R. R. Zeigler (1923-1926)
J. L. Grimm	C. E. Wachter (1926-1930)
C. M. Hott	Frank L. Stine (1930-1947)
J. D. Donovan	C. L. Thompson (1947-)

ORGANISTS

MRS. RICHARD H. NEWCOMER
MRS. RAYMOND C. BAKER

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CLARENCE W. FOLTZ, President
HARRY NEWCOMER, Secretary STANLEY P. F. KLINE, Treasurer
ELMER C. HUFFER HARRY E. GROSS

8/26/2011

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HF GROUP - IN

